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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

PHAN HUE

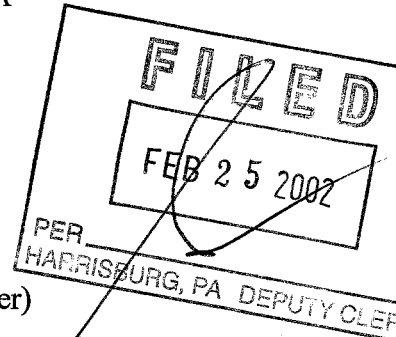
: CIVIL ACTION

V.

: NO.: 1:01-CV-1064

JAMES UPDIKE, P.A., JOSEPH
MATALONI, EDWARD O'BRIAN
and DALE HAZLAK

:
: (Judge Kane)
: Magistrate Judge Smyser)



EXHIBITS OF JAMES UPDIKE, P.A. IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION TO DISMISS THE COMPLAINT OF PHAN HUE

Exhibit "A"

01/28/02 MON 11:34 FAX 615 37 1352

ASG/PHS LEGAL DEPT

011

FORM TO BE USED BY A PRISONER IN FILING A CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

COPY

DY-0577
(Inmate Number)Phan Hue
(Name of Plaintiff)660 state Route 11
(Address of Plaintiff)Hunlock Creek, Pa. 18621

vs.

James Updike; Joseph
matoloni; Edward O'
Brian; Dale Hazlet
(Names of Defendants) *in their individual & official capacities.*1 : CV01-1064
(Case Number)COMPLAINT FILED
SCRANTON

JUN 15 2001

PER [Signature]
DEPUTY CLERKTO BE FILED UNDER: ☒ 42 U.S.C. § 1983 - STATE OFFICIALS
☐ 28 U.S.C. § 1331 - FEDERAL OFFICIALS

I. Previous Lawsuits

- A. If you have filed any other lawsuits in federal court while a prisoner please list the caption and case number including year, as well as the name of the judicial officer to whom it was assigned:

N.A.

II. Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies

- A. Is there a grievance procedure available at your institution?
-
- ☒
- Yes
- ☐
- No

- B. Have you filed a grievance concerning the facts relating to this complaint?
-
- ☒
- Yes
- ☐
- No

If your answer is no, explain why not N.A.

- C. Is the grievance process completed?
- ☒
- Yes
- ☐
- No

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III. Defendants

(In Item A below, place the full name of the defendant in the first blank, his/her official position in the second blank, and his/her place of employment in the third blank. Use Item B for the names, positions and places of employment of any additional defendants.)

A. Defendant James Updike is employed
as Physician's Asst. at S.C.I. Retreat;

B. Additional defendants Joseph Martaloni is the Chief
Health Care Administrator at S.C.I.
Retreat; Edward O'Brian is the Culinary
manager at S.C.I. Retreat; Dale
[Cont.]

IV. Statement of Claim

(State here as briefly as possible the facts of your case. Describe how each defendant is involved including dates and places. Do not give any legal arguments or cite any cases or statutes. Attach extra sheets if necessary.)

1. On Feb. 24th, 2000, while working in the
kitchen area, I had an accident
which seriously injured my shoulder
& knocked out teeth;
2. I was taken to the outside Hospital
where the Emergency room Physician
informed me that I would need to
see a bone specialist & prescribed
medication;
3. Subsequent to my return to the
institution, defendant Updike dis-
continued my medication; Confisca-
ted my shoulder restraint & refused
[Cont.]

III: B: Additional defendants Cont.:

Hazlak is unit manager at
S.C.I. Retreat.

IV. (3) statement of claim Cont.:

to schedule me to see the
Bone Specialist;
defendant mataloni was ap-
prised of my inability to use my
arm or move my shoulder & he ac-
quiesced to the continuation of
denying me the prescribed medication
the continued denial of my shoulder/
Arm restraint - harness, the contin-
ued refusal to honor the outside
doctor's referral to a Bone Specialist
& when defendant O'Brian & defen-
dant Hazlak were adamant about not
letting me off of work, Concurred

IV. (3) statement of claim Cont.:

with their forcing me to work because they feared I was going to sue over the conditions of the work place hence the subsequent injury;

defendant O'Brian would not recognize my injury thus my inability to work & used all his official pressure to see (1) that my injury was not recognized, (2) that I be made to work.

defendant Hazek retaliated against me by seeing that I was punished for refusal to work based upon my contentions of the 8th Cruel & Unusual Punishment violations & my attempts to get the prescribed medical attention.

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V. Relief

(State briefly exactly what you want the court to do for you. Make no legal arguments. Cite cases or statutes.)

1. repair of my medical maladies resultant from the work accident, expungement of the misconduct from my record simply for fighting for my Constitutional Rights.
2. monetary Compensation awarded by a jury commensurate with the physical & psychological pain/dures suffered to date.
3. Punitive damages in the amount of \$10,000.00 from each defendant so that they do not put another individual through the same trauma.

Signed this 12 day of June, 2001.

(Signature of Plaintiff) 

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

(Date) 6-12-2001


(Signature of Plaintiff) 

Exhibit "B"



POLICY STATEMENT

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Corrections

Policy Subject: Consolidated Inmate Grievance Review System		Policy Number: DC-ADM 804
Date of Issue: July 20, 1994	Authority: Joseph D. Lehman Commissioner	Effective Date: Oct. 20, 1994

I. AUTHORITY

The Authority of the Commissioner of Corrections to direct the operation of the Department of Corrections is established by Sections 201, 206, 506, and 901-B of the Administrative Code of 1929, Act of April 9, 1929, P.L. 177, No. 175, as amended.

II. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this Administrative Directive to establish policy regarding the Consolidated Inmate Grievance Review System and to ensure that inmates have an avenue through which resolution of specific problems can be sought.

This directive sets forth procedures for the review of Inmate Grievances not already covered by other Administrative Directives and policies. It also provides the method through which review procedures established by other directives are to be integrated with the procedures outlined in this directive.

III. APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to all employees of the Department of Corrections and all inmates under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and to those individuals and groups who have business with or use the resources of the Department of Corrections.

IV. DEFINITIONS

A. Grievance -

The formal written expression of a complaint submitted by an inmate related to a problem encountered during the course of his/her confinement.

B. Grievance Coordinator -

The Corrections Superintendent's Assistant in an institution or the Assistant to the Regional Director in Community Corrections who is responsible for the overall administration of the Inmate Grievance System in that facility/region. This includes all data collection, tracking and statistical reporting. At the direction of the Facility Manager or the Regional Director, the Grievance Coordinator may be called upon to assist in the review of certain grievances.



ADM 804

C. Grievance Officer -

An appropriate Department Head or Management Level staff person designated by the Facility Manager or CC Regional Director to provide Initial Review of an inmate grievance arising from his/her specific area of responsibility, e.g., a Unit Manager would be assigned to provide Initial Review of a grievance from the housing unit. If the grievance arises from the Food Services Area, the Grievance Officer designated by the Facility Manager shall be the Food Services Manager, likewise, the Corrections Health Care Administrator would be the Grievance Officer for a grievance related to a Health Care issue.

D. Central Office Review Committee (CORC) -

A committee of at least three (3) Central Office staff appointed by the Commissioner of Corrections to include the Commissioner, Executive Deputy Commissioner and Chief Counsel or their designees.

With the exception of appeals from disciplinary action under DC-ADM 801 and appeals arising from Health Care or medical treatment grievances, the CORC Shall have responsibility for direct review of all Inmate Appeals for Final Review.

E. Central Office Medical Review Committee (COMRC) -

A committee appointed by the Commissioner to include the Director of the Bureau of Health Services and relevant Bureau staff. The COMRC shall have responsibility for direct review of grievance appeals related to Health Care and medical treatment issues.

F. Initial Review -

The first step in the formal Inmate Grievance Process for all issues except those already governed by other specified procedures (see VI E). All reviews conducted below the level of Facility Manager or Regional Director are considered initial reviews.

G. Appeal from Initial Review -

The first level of appeal of a decision rendered at Initial Review. This appeal is directed to the Facility Manager or Community Corrections Regional Director.

An appeal of the Initial Review decision on a grievance related to a Health Care or Medical issue shall be submitted directly to the COMRC at Central Office.

Only issues raised at Initial Review shall be appealed.

H. Final Review -

Upon completion of Initial Review and appeal from Initial Review, an inmate may seek Final Review from the Central Office Review Committee (CORC), for any issue involving continued non-compliance with Department of Corrections directives or policy, the ICU Consent Decree or other law.

V. POLICY

- A. It is the policy of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections that every individual committed to its custody shall have access to a formal procedure - the Consolidated Inmate Grievance Review System - through which the resolution of problems or other issues of concern arising during the course of confinement may be sought. For every such issue there shall be a forum for review and an avenue of appeal, but only one.

C-ADM 804

- B. Informal Resolution of Problems - All inmates are expected to attempt to resolve problems or differences with staff on an informal basis through direct contact or by sending a request slip to appropriate staff. Action taken by the inmate to resolve the situation must be indicated on the grievance form, Section B.

The Grievance Form, DC 804, Part I, is available in each Housing Unit or upon request from Unit staff. This is the proper form to be used for submission of a grievance and it should be completed according to the directions provided.

It is required that a genuine effort be made to resolve the problem before the grievance system is used. The inmate must document these efforts in Section B of the Grievance Form. Failure to do so may result in the grievance being returned to the inmate without action. The inmate may then refile the grievance with Section B properly completed.

- C. Any inmate using the grievance system shall do so in good faith and for good cause.

No one shall be punished, retaliated against or otherwise harmed for good faith use of this grievance system.

Deliberate misuse of the grievance system may result in restricted access or disciplinary action, at the discretion of the Facility Manager.

- D. It is the intent of the Department of Corrections to provide for an accelerated review of appeals of grievances related to medical issues. For this reason, the inmate is permitted to appeal a medical grievance to the Central Office Medical Review Committee for Final Review directly from Initial Review. See VI., C. 1.
- E. The Inmate Grievance Review System is intended to deal with a wide range of issues, procedures or events which may be of concern to inmates. It is not meant to address incidents of an urgent or emergency nature. When faced with such an event, the inmate should contact the nearest staff member for immediate assistance.

VI. PROCEDURES

- A. A Grievance shall be submitted to the Grievance Coordinator in the following manner.

1. All grievances shall be in writing and in the format provided on the forms supplied by the institution (DC-804 Part 1). See Section V., B.
2. All grievances shall be presented individually. Any grievance submitted by a group of inmates will not be processed, however, if the Grievance Coordinator believes that the issue being grieved is legitimate, it will be referred to appropriate Management Staff for review.
3. Only an inmate who has been personally affected by a Department or institution action or policy shall be permitted to seek review of a grievance or appeal. The inmate grievant must sign the grievance or appeal.
4. All grievances and appeals must be presented in good faith. They shall include a brief statement of the facts relevant to the claim. The text of the grievance must be legible and presented in a courteous manner. The inmate should identify any persons who may have information which could be helpful in resolving the grievance. The inmate may also specifically state any claims he/she wishes to make concerning violations of Department directives, regulations, the ICU Consent Decree or other law. The inmate may request to be personally interviewed prior to the decision on Initial Review. Any inmate who submits a grievance containing false and malicious information may be subject to disciplinary action.

DM 804

5. Grievances and appeals based on different events should be presented separately, unless it is necessary to combine the issues to support the claim. The Grievance Officer may combine multiple grievances which relate to the same subject.

NOTE: At any point in the grievance process, the inmate has the right to withdraw the grievance.

B. Initial Review

1. Initial Review Procedures must be completed before Appeal from Initial Review or Final Appeal may be sought. Any claims of violation of the ICU Consent Decree must be raised through this grievance procedure before they may be addressed by any court.
2. Grievances must be submitted for initial review to the Facility/Regional Grievance Coordinator within fifteen (15) days after the events upon which the claims are based. Extensions of this time period may be granted by the Facility Manager/Regional Director for good cause.
3. The Grievance Coordinator will forward the grievance to the appropriate Grievance Officer for investigation and resolution. The inmate grievant and other persons having personal knowledge of the subject matter may be interviewed. A grievant who has requested a personal interview, shall be interviewed.
4. Within ten (10) working days of receipt of the grievance by the Grievance Officer, the grievant shall be provided a written response to the grievance to include a brief rationale, summarizing the conclusions and any action taken or recommended to resolve the issues raised in the grievance.

The Grievance Coordinator may authorize an extension of up to an additional ten (10) working days if the investigation of the grievance is pending. If an extension is necessary, the grievant shall be so advised in writing.

C. Appeal from Initial Review

1. An Initial Review Decision of a grievance on a Health Care or medical treatment issue may be appealed directly to the Central Office Medical Review Committee for Final Review within five (5) days of receipt by the inmate of the Initial Review decision. A grievance for which the Corrections Health Care Administrator conducted the Initial Review will usually be considered a Medical Grievance.

All other appeals will be submitted as follows.

2. An inmate may appeal an initial review decision to the Facility Manager or Community Corrections Regional Director in writing, within five (5) days from the date of receipt by the inmate of the Initial Review decision. **The inmate must appeal in this manner prior to seeking Final Review. Only issues which were raised for initial review may be appealed.**
3. All appeals must conform to the requirements specified in Section VI A of this directive. The appeal must clearly identify the decision appealed from and all reasons for appeal. Only one appeal from any initial review decision will be permitted.
4. The Facility Manager or Regional Director must notify the inmate of his/her decision within ten (10) working days after receiving the appeal. This decision may consist of approval, disapproval, modification, reversal, remand or reassignment for further fact finding, and must include a brief statement of the reasons for the decision.

C-ADM 804

D. Final Review

1. Any inmate who is dissatisfied with the disposition of an Appeal from Initial Review decision, may, within seven (7) days of receiving the decision, appeal any issue related to non-compliance with the ICU Consent Decree, other law, Department directive or policy, for final review. Only issues raised at the Initial Review and Appeal level may be referred for Final Review.
2. Final Review will not be permitted until the inmate has complied with all procedures established for Initial Review and Appeal from Initial Review. Exceptions may be made for good cause.
3. Final Review of all appeals will be sent directly to the CORC except the following:
 - a. Medical Grievances which will be reviewed by COMRC.
 - b. Requests for Final Review of appeals from disciplinary actions which were processed through DC-ADM 801. These will be reviewed by the Office of the Chief Counsel which may respond directly to the inmate or refer the appeal to the Central Office Review Committee (CORC) for further reviews.

The address of the CORC/COMRC is:

**PA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
CENTRAL OFFICE REVIEW COMMITTEE
PO BOX 598/2520 LISBURN ROAD
CAMP HILL, PA 17001-0598**

4. Requests for Final Review must clearly identify the decision appealed from and all reasons for appeal. Only one appeal from any second level (Appeal from Initial Review) decision will be permitted.
5. The CORC\COMRC, or any member thereof, may require additional investigation to be made prior to a decision on a Final Review appeal.
6. The CORC\COMRC will review all issues properly raised according to the above procedures. It may also review and consider any other related matter.
7. For all Appeals receiving Final Review, the CORC/COMRC will issue its decision within twenty-one (21) days after receipt of an appeal. The decision may consist of approval, disapproval, modification, reversal, remand or reassignment for further fact finding, and must include a brief statement of the reasons for the decision. The committee shall notify the grievant and Facility Manager/Regional Director of its decision and rationale.
8. The Chief Counsel will notify counsel for the ICU class of disposition by the CORC/COMRC of any matter raised on Final Review alleging a violation of the ICU Consent Decree.

E. Exceptions

Initial Review and Appeal from Initial Review of issues related to the following Administrative Directives shall be in accordance with procedures outlined therein, and will not be reviewed by the Grievance Officer or Grievance Coordinator.

1. DC ADM 805 - Policy & Procedures for Obtaining Pre-Release Transfer.
2. DCADM 801 - Inmate Disciplinary and Restricted Housing Unit Procedures. See DC-ADM 801 VI., G & I
3. DCADM 802 - Administrative Custody Procedures. See DC-ADM 802, VI, B, 1.2. Appeal from Initial Review, see DC-ADM 802, VI, B, 1.2.

DC-ADM 804

4. DC-ADM 814 - Incoming Publications

See 814-IIIB, Appeal from Initial Review, see 814-IIID.

Additionally, there may be other kinds of issues for which Initial Review Procedures have been previously established by Administrative Memorandum or Policy Statement.

F. Admissions and Review

1. All proceedings pursuant to this directive are in the nature of settlement negotiations and will, therefore, be inadmissible before any court or other tribunal in support of any claim made against the Commonwealth or any employee. No resolution of any grievance offered as a result of this procedure shall be admissible before any court or other tribunal as an admission of violation of the ICU Consent Decree or any State or federal law.
2. No decision rendered as a result of the processing of a grievance shall be reviewable by any court unless it establishes a system or institution-wide violation of the decree.

G. Completion of Review After Transfer

Any inmate who is transferred after the filing of a grievance or appeal, but prior to the completion of the appeal process, may continue to pursue the grievance or appeal by notifying the Facility Manager or Regional Director of the facility in which confined when the grievance was filed. Adjustments in the various time limitations may be made to facilitate review.

VII. SUSPENSION DURING EMERGENCY

In an emergency situation or extended disruption of normal institutional operation, any provision or section of this policy may be suspended by the Commissioner or his/her designee for a specific period of time.

VIII. RIGHTS UNDER THIS POLICY

This policy does not create rights in any person nor should it be interpreted or applied in such a manner as to abridge the rights of any individual. This policy should be interpreted to have sufficient flexibility so as to be consistent with law and to permit the accomplishment of the purpose of the policies of the Department of Corrections.

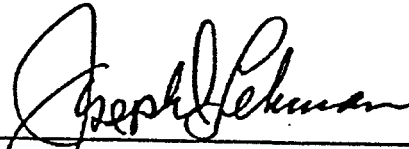
IX. SUPERSEDED POLICY AND CROSS-REFERENCE

This directive revises the Inmate Grievance System (DC-ADM 804, MAY 1, 1984), and supersedes the pilot grievance system in effect at selected DOC institutions. It does not supersede or repeal any portion of any other directive or policy statement. Where this directive is inconsistent with any other directive or policy, both shall be interpreted so as to provide full review of all issues raised, consistent with the scope and purpose of this directive. Conflicts will most frequently occur at the Initial Review level, where other directives establish committees to review specific issues.


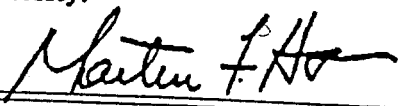
Cross References: DC-ADM 801, DC-ADM 802

ACA Cross-References: 3-4271

cc: Executive Deputy Commissioner Reid
Deputy Commissioner Clymer
Deputy Commissioner Fulcomer
Acting Deputy Commissioner Beard
All Superintendents
CCC Directors (4)
File



Joseph D. Lehman,
Commissioner

		Bulletin Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Corrections	
To: Superintendents Boot Camp Commander Regional Directors Executive Staff		Policy Subject: DC-ADM 804 CONSOLIDATED INMATE GRIEVANCE REVIEW SYSTEM	
		Policy Number: DC-ADM 804-1	
		Policy Issue Date: July 20, 1994	
Date of Issue: April 2, 1996	Authority: 		Effective Date: May 20, 1996


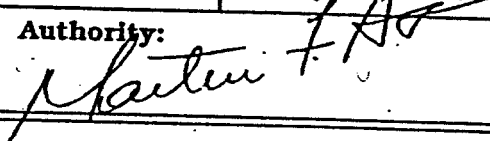
The purpose of this Bulletin is to include medical grievances in the regular grievance process and to discontinue the Central Office Medical Review Committee (COMRC).

It is important that the Superintendent be aware of all functions within the institution. Similarly, it is essential that the Bureau of Health Care Services be included in the CORC process, to include review by the Chief Counsel's office with respect to medical grievances. Therefore, all grievances, including those relating to medical issues, are to be processed in the same manner. The grievance coordinator will continue to forward medical grievances to the CHCA for initial review. Then, the Superintendent will be responsible for the Appeal from Initial Review, as for all other grievances.

Final Appeal of medical grievances will no longer be forwarded to the COMRC. The Central Office Review Committee (CORC) will process the appeals. The Director of the Bureau of Health Care Services, or designee, will participate as a member of CORC for all medical grievance appeals.

The following sections of DC-ADM 804 are to be discontinued:


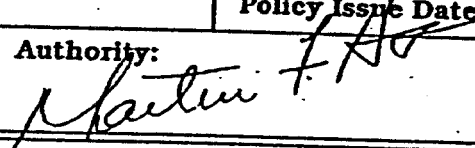
- IV.E.: Definition of COMRC
- IV.G.: "An appeal of the Initial Review decision on a grievance related to a Health Care or Medical issue shall be submitted directly to the COMRC at Central Office.
- V.D.: "It is the intent of the Department of Corrections to provide for an accelerated review of appeals of grievances related to medical issues. For this reason, the inmate is permitted to appeal a medical grievance to the Central Office Medical Review Committee for Final Review directly from Initial Review."

		Bulletin Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Corrections	
To: Executive Staff Superintendents Regional Directors		Policy Subject: Consolidated Inmate Grievance Review System	
		Policy Number: DC-ADM 804-2	
		Policy Issue Date: July 20, 1994	
Date of Issue: October 1, 1997	Authority: 	Effective Date: November 1, 1997	

The procedures for appeal to final review under DC-ADM 804, VI, D, 5-7, are amended as follows:

- (1) The Chief Hearing Examiner will replace the Central Office Review Committee (CORC) at final review of all grievance appeals. The Chief Hearing Examiner will perform all functions previously performed by CORC.
- (2) In reviewing grievances submitted for final review, the Chief Hearing Examiner will review the initial grievance and response, any appeals therefrom and the responses thereto and the issues appealed to final review.
- (3) The Chief Hearing Examiner will review health care related grievances with the Bureau of Health Care. Appeals raising legitimate legal issues, including but not limited to access to courts and sentencing issues, will be reviewed with an attorney prior to response.
- (4) Upon completion of final review, the Chief Hearing Examiner will respond directly to the inmate in all cases where the position taken by the institution is upheld.
- (5) In all cases where the action of the Grievance Coordinator, PRC, Incoming Publication Review Committee, or Superintendent is reversed or amended, or where a matter is remanded, the Chief Hearing Examiner will prepare a letter to the inmate and a memorandum to the Superintendent. The Chief Hearing Examiner will forward the letter and memorandum to the appropriate Regional Deputy Commissioner for review and signature.
- (6) The Chief Hearing Examiner will be responsible for assuring that:
 - (a) appeals to final review are responded to in a timely fashion;
 - (b) records pertaining to such appeals are maintained properly; and
 - (c) counsel for the ICU class is notified of the disposition at final review of any matter raised to final review alleging a violation of the ICU vs Shapp Consent Decree.

It is the intent of the Department of Corrections to provide inmates with a complete and timely review of all appeals properly raised to final review. These amendments have been established to ensure timeliness of final review.

		Bulletin Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Corrections	
To: Executive Staff Superintendents Regional Directors Boot Camp Commander		Policy Subject: Consolidated Inmate Grievance Review System	
		Policy Number: DC-ADM 804-3	
		Policy Issue Date: July 20, 1994	
Date of Issue: October 21, 1997	Authority: 	Effective Date: November 1, 1997	


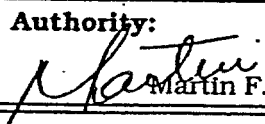
The purpose of this bulletin is to facilitate timely responses from the Chief Hearing Examiner's Office to all appeals to final review.

(1) All appeals to final review should be addressed to the Chief Hearing Examiner,

Chief Hearing Examiner
 1451 S. Market Street
 Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Appeals which are addressed to the Commissioner, Chief Counsel, to other Central Office staff, are of course, delivered to these individuals first, then have to be referred to the Chief Hearing Examiner. Improperly addressed appeals may cause a delay in the response to final appeal.

(2) Inmates appealing to final review are responsible for providing the reviewing body with any available paperwork relevant to the appeal. A proper appeal to final review should include photocopies of the initial grievance, initial grievance response, and the Superintendent's response. Appeals without proper records will be reviewed, but the review will be delayed until the appropriate paperwork can be obtained.

		Bulletin Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Corrections	
To: Executive Staff Superintendents CCC Regional Directors Boot Camp Commander		Policy Subject: Consolidated Inmate Grievance Review System	
		Policy Number: DC-ADM 804-4	
		Policy Issue Date: July 20, 1994	
Date of Issue: April 29, 1998	Authority:  Martin F. Horn	Effective Date: May 1, 1998	

The purpose of this bulletin is to amend the section VI. Procedures, A.4. to read,

"All grievances and appeals must be presented in good faith. They shall include a brief statement of the facts relevant to the claim. The text must be legible and presented in a courteous manner. The Grievant should identify any persons who may have information which could be helpful in resolving the grievance. The Grievant may specifically raise any claims concerning violations of Department of Corrections directives, regulations, court orders, or other law. The Grievant may also include a request for compensation or other legal relief normally available from a court. The inmate may request to be personally interviewed at initial review. Any inmate who submits a grievance containing false information may be subject to disciplinary action. Inmates who have not already completed final review may request compensation or legal relief on appeal to final review."

And to amend Section VI. Procedures, B. Initial Review, 2. to read:

"Grievances must be submitted for initial review to the Facility/Regional Grievance Coordinator within fifteen (15) days after the events upon which the claims are based. Extensions of this time period may be granted by the Facility Manager/Regional Director for good cause. Such extensions will normally be granted if the events complained of would state a claim of violation of federal right."

Exhibit "C"

UNREPORTED/NOT PRECEDENTIAL

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

No. 99-1971

LARRY GEISLER,
Appellant

v.

STANLEY HOFFMAN, DR.;
DONALD T. VAUGHN

ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

D.C. Civil No. 99-CV-3764

District Judge: The Honorable John R. Padova

Argued: September 12, 2000

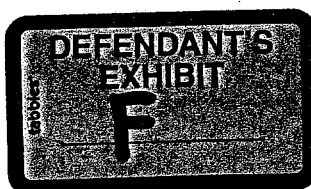
Before: NYGAARD, ROTH, and BARRY, Circuit Judges

(Opinion Filed: September 29, 2000)

MEMORANDUM OPINION OF THE COURT

BARRY, Circuit Judge

Appellant Larry Geisler, a former prisoner at SCI-Graterford, appeals separate orders of the District Court which granted motions to dismiss his civil rights action against appellees



Dr. Stanley Hoffman and Superintendent Donald T. Vaughn. The District Court dismissed Geisler's action against Dr. Hoffman for failure to exhaust administrative remedies and dismissed the action against Superintendent Vaughn on the merits.¹ In this appeal, Geisler seeks reversal of the orders of dismissal and adds a constitutional challenge to 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a), a challenge he did not raise before the District Court.² For the reasons set forth below, we will affirm.

The facts underlying this case, as sympathetic as they are to Geisler, are well-known to the parties involved and will not be repeated here. Despite that sympathetic story, however, we must follow the mandate of Congress in 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a), as interpreted

¹ Superintendent Vaughn argues that because Geisler's brief on appeal fails to address the merits of his claim against him, much less tell this Court why, in his opinion, the District Court erred in dismissing the action as to him, that order of dismissal is not properly before us for review. We agree. "An issue is waived unless a party raises it in its opening brief, and for those purposes 'a passing reference to an issue . . . will not suffice to bring that issue before t[he] court.'" Laborers' Int'l Union of No. Am. v. Foster Wheeler Corp., 26 F.3d 375, 398 (3d Cir. 1994) (quoting Simmons v. City of Philadelphia, 947 F.2d 1042, 1066 (3d Cir. 1991), cert. denied, 503 U.S. 985 (1992)); see also Penn. Dept. of Public Welfare v. U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 101 F.3d 939, 944 (3d Cir. 1996). The remainder of this opinion will, therefore, address only Geisler's appeal from the dismissal of Dr. Hoffman and we will affirm as to Superintendent Vaughn without further discussion.

² We have consistently refused to consider issues that are raised for the first time on appeal. See Harris v. City of Philadelphia, 35 F.3d 840, 845 (3d Cir. 1994); Richerson v. Jones, 572 F.2d 89, 97 (3d Cir. 1978) (noting that "refusing to consider on appeal an issue or argument not raised below normally promotes the finality of judgments and conserves judicial resources"). While there is a "manifest injustice" exception to this Court's rule against consideration of new legal issues on appeal, this rarely-applied exception is not triggered here. We, therefore, will not consider Geisler's challenge to § 1997e(a).

by this Court, and affirm the dismissal as to Dr. Hoffman because Geisler simply did not exhaust his administrative remedies as to the monetary relief he now seeks.

The plain language of 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a), as amended by the Prison Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA"), makes clear that: "No action shall be brought with respect to prison conditions under section 1983 of this title . . . by a prisoner confined in any jail, prison, or other correctional facility *until such administrative remedies as are available are exhausted.*" 42 U.S.C. § 1997(e)(a) (emphasis added). As we determined in Nyhuis v. Reno, 204 F.3d 65, 67 (3d Cir. 2000), Congress intended for the PLRA to amend "§ 1997e(a) in such a way as to make exhaustion of all administrative remedies mandatory—*whether or not they provide the inmate-plaintiff with the relief he says he desires in his federal action.*" The decision in Nyhuis – a Bivens action – to reject a "futility" exception to § 1997e(a) and to regard the exhaustion requirement as unqualified has been extended to § 1983 claims. See Booth v. Churner, 206 F.3d 289, 300 (3d Cir. 2000) ("[T]he rule we announced in Nyhuis has equal force in the § 1983 context . . . for § 1997e(a) treats Bivens actions and § 1983 actions as functional equivalents."), petition for cert. filed, 68 U.S.L.W. 3774 (U.S. June 05, 2000) (No. 99-1964).

As the record reveals and Geisler's counsel concedes, Geisler failed to utilize all three of the tiers of the administrative appeals process provided for by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections via the Consolidated Inmate Grievance Review Procedure ("DC-ADM 804"). While Geisler claims to have filed a grievance to have his J tube reimplanted

and arranged to have an inmate file a second grievance on his behalf, he admittedly never went beyond that initial step within the formal appeals process outlined in DC-ADM 804. Moreover, the failure of the prison officials to formally respond in writing to these grievances did not, contrary to Geisler's argument, relieve him of the obligation of exhausting the requisite administrative remedies. DC-ADM 804 does not prohibit prisoners from appealing the failure of prison officials to act on initial grievances and, therefore, Geisler was statutorily constrained to bring his grievances to the next level within the prison grievance scheme before pursuing relief in the judicial forum. And, we note, Geisler's grievances sought relief wholly different from the monetary remedy that he subsequently sought from the District Court. To this end, even if Geisler had brought his grievances before the two appellate tiers provided for by DC-ADM 804, exhaustion in that setting clearly would not have exhausted his current claim for monetary relief, a claim which he never even began to pursue administratively.

In this connection, Geisler cannot be heard to argue that seeking monetary damages in the administrative setting would have been "futile." First of all, DC-ADM 804 made awards of monetary relief available to inmates as of May 1, 1998 - well before Geisler filed his federal complaint in July 26, 1999; if the very relief Geisler sought in the judicial forum was first available to him in the administrative forum, a grievance in that forum could not have been "futile." Second, even if administrative remedies had not been available to Geisler via DC-ADM 804, any attempt to invoke a "futility" exception would be denied in light of

Nyhuis and Booth. See Nyhuis, 204 F.3d at 70-77 (explaining that Congress, via the PLRA, intended for exhaustion to be an unqualified requirement in prisoner civil rights litigation in an attempt to conserve judicial resources and to give deference to and promote the efficacy of administrative processes); Booth 206 F.3d at 300 (same).

In sum, Geisler's complaint fits squarely within the dictates of § 1997e(a), as interpreted by this court in Nyhuis and Booth, that a prisoner exhaust the administrative remedies available to him or her prior to initiating suit in federal court. Because Geisler failed to exhaust the three-tiered administrative appeals process with respect to both (1) his request to have his J tube reimplanted and (2) his current request for monetary damages attributable to the time he was deprived of the J tube, the District Court properly granted Dr. Hoffman's motion to dismiss.

We make, however, one observation. While Nyhuis and Booth compel us to uphold the dismissal of Geisler's complaint for failure to exhaust, we note that exhaustion is a two-way street with obligations on the part of prison officials as well as on the part of the prisoner. In Nyhuis, this Court stated that "applying § 1997e(a) without exception promotes the efficacy of the administrative process itself..." Nyhuis, 204 F.3d at 76. We anticipated that under a strict exhaustion requirement "prison grievance procedures will receive enhanced attention and improved administration." Id. While the state's failure to formally respond to Geisler's grievances – and on a motion to dismiss both the filing of the grievances and the failure to respond must be accepted as true – does not constitute a ground for

excusing Geisler from exhausting the administrative appeals process, such failure is wholly inconsistent with the "cooperative ethos . . . between inmate and jailer" which this Court envisioned a strict exhaustion requirement would promote. Id. at 77. In response to the inattention in this case, we issue a simple yet stern reminder: federal courts and prisoners alike depend upon prison officials to take seriously their roles within the relevant administrative grievance scheme. Only prompt attention and formal, guided response to timely prisoner grievances will facilitate the overarching policies of the PLRA.

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT:

Kindly file the foregoing Memorandum Opinion.

/s/ Maryanne Trump Barry
Circuit Judge

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

No. 99-1971

LARRY GEISLER,
Appellant

v.

STANLEY HOFFMAN, DR.;
DONALD T. VAUGHN

ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
D.C. Civil No. 99-CV-3764
District Judge: The Honorable John R. Padova

Argued: September 12, 2000

Before: NYGAARD, ROTH, and BARRY, Circuit Judges

(Opinion Filed: September 29, 2000)

JUDGMENT

This cause came to be heard on the record from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and was argued on September 12, 2000.

After consideration of all contentions raised by the appellant, it is

ADJUDGED and ORDERED that the judgments of the District Court be and are hereby affirmed.

Costs taxed against appellant.

Marcia M. Waldron

Marcia M. Waldron, Clerk

Dated: September 29, 2000

Exhibit "D"

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Ths de*IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MICHAEL C. PEOPLES,

Plaintiff,

vs.

COMMISSIONER HORN, et al.

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:CV-97-0205

(JUDGE CONABOY)

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MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

DEPUTY CLERK

Presently before the Court is a Report and Recommendation filed by United States Magistrate Judge Thomas M. Blewitt. (Doc. 90). The Magistrate Judge recommends that the Plaintiff's complaint be dismissed in its entirety because the Plaintiff has failed to exhaust his administrative remedies. The Plaintiff has not filed any objections to the Magistrate Judge's disposition. Thus, after carefully reviewing the Report and Recommendation only for plain error or manifest injustice, Cipollone v. Liggett Group, Inc., 822 F.2d 335, 340 (3d Cir. 1987) cert. denied, 484 U.S. 976 (1987); Henderson v. Carlson, 812 F.2d 875, 878 (3d Cir. 1987), cert. denied 484 U.S. 837 (19487), we shall adopt the Report and

¹ Although the Plaintiff has filed a motion for enlargement of time to file an objection to the Magistrate Judge's recommended disposition (Doc. 92), we deny it as moot in light of our determination made in this Memorandum and Order. Based upon our review, the Plaintiff has clearly failed to exhaust his administrative remedies. Accordingly, his complaint is dismissed without prejudice.

Recommendation of the Magistrate Judge and dismiss the complaint in its entirety.

FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

The Plaintiff commenced this action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claiming numerous violations of his First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendment rights. (Doc. 1). He is an inmate at the State Correctional Institution at Smithfield and is proceeding pro se. The Plaintiff filed an amended complaint on May 6, 1997. (Doc. 16).

The Defendants have filed a number of motions to dismiss. (Docs. 19, 27, 44, 47 and 50). However, not all of the motions are ripe for disposition. Nevertheless, our preliminary review of this action directs us to dismiss the complaint based upon the Plaintiffs failure to exhaust his administrative remedies.

DISCUSSION

With respect to the applicability of administrative remedies, 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a) reads as follows:

No action shall be brought with respect to prison conditions under section 1979 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (42 U.S.C. § 1983), or any other Federal law, by a prisoner confined in any jail, prison, or other correctional facility until such administrative remedies as are available are exhausted.

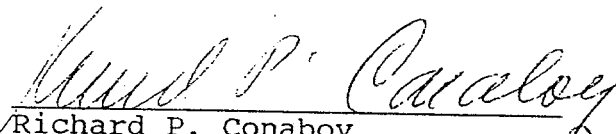
This provision makes no distinction between an action for damages, injunctive relief, or both. Thus, prisoners are required to exhaust available administrative remedies prior to initiating a

prison conditions case brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 or any other federal law.

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections has a Consolidated Inmate Grievance review System. DC-ADM 804 (effective October 20, 1994). With certain exceptions not applicable here, DC-ADM 804, Section VI ("Procedures") provides that , after attempted informal resolution of the problem, a written grievance may be submitted to the Grievance Coordinator; an appeal from the Coordinator's decision may be made in writing to the Facility Manager or Community Corrections Regional Director; and a final written appeal may be presented to the Central Office Review Committee. If the grievance concerns an alleged medical problem any appeal must be taken to the Central Office Medical Review Committee.

The instant suit concerns the Plaintiffs alleged violation of his First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendment rights. On the question of administrative exhaustion, the complaint includes a question relating to what steps the prisoner took in the state prisoner grievance procedure. The Plaintiff indicates that although he filed "DC-804 Part I Grievances" with respect to his medical and non-medical grievances, they "were put down via semantics, et., etc., etc. And I was persecuted (sic) because of my efforts to obtain relief." (Doc. 1, p. 2). There is no indication that he appealed the dismissal of this grievance. In that connection, the procedure contemplates several tiers of review and the Grievance Review System is not exhausted when an inmate files a grievance and then takes no other action through established chan-

nels when a grievance is not resolved to his or her satisfaction. Plaintiff's apparent failure to comply with 42 U. S. C. § 1997e(a), as amended, warrants the dismissal of his complaint but without prejudice. See Pew v. Imschweiler, et al., Civil Action No. 96-0760 (M.D. Pa. September 12, 1996) (Kosik, J.); Johnson v. Gillis, et al., Civil Action No. 96-1569 (M.D. Pa. August 29, 1996) (Conaboy, J.); Lubawski v. Horn, et al., Civil Action No. 96-1371 (M.D. Pa. July 29, 1996) (Rambo, C.J.); Smith v. Giza, Civil Action No. 96-1167 (M.D. Pa. July 2, 1996) (Rambo, C.J.); Brooks v. Superintendent Lunk of Div. 10, et al., No. 96C3221, 1996 WL 308268 (N.D. Ill. June 5, 1996).


 Richard P. Conaboy
 United States District Judge

DATE: 12/31/97

Exhibit "E"

CLERK OF COURT
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

JOHN SYKES	:	CIVIL ACTION
	:	NO. 99-6208
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
MARTIN HORN, et al.,	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	

FILED

MAR 24 2000

BY MICHAEL E. KUNZ, Clerk
Dep. Clerk

ORDER

AND NOW, this 21st day of March, 2000, after a hearing in which all of the parties participated, it is hereby ORDERED that:

1. Defendant Khin's motion to dismiss plaintiff's amended complaint (doc. # 5) and the Commonwealth defendants' motion to dismiss plaintiff's amended complaint (doc. # 7) are GRANTED.¹

1. Plaintiff brought this action claiming violations of 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the Pennsylvania Constitution, and Pennsylvania common law. For purposes of these motions, the following facts taken from plaintiffs amended complaint are deemed true. The prison's plumbing detail, to which plaintiff was assigned, was trying to repair a leak in the prison's hot water circulation loop. As part of that effort, plaintiff was instructed to dig a trench on prison property while 200 degree water was pouring out of a nearby pipe into the trench. The ground gave way beneath plaintiff, who fell into the boiling water, suffering serious burns. Defendants, comprised of medical and prison personnel, failed to take action to lessen plaintiff's pain and instead intentionally increased his pain by not treating his injuries and by exacerbating those injuries through their conduct.

2. The above-captioned matter is DISMISSED without PREJUDICE for plaintiff's failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

The case shall be marked closed.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.


EDUARDO C. ROBRENO, J.

COPIES BY MAIL ON: 

TO: 

COPIES BY FAX ON: 3/34/00

TO: Alan S. Gold, Esq.

claims that prison personnel compelled him into great physical danger, which he in fact suffered, "was an application of excessive force" and that Dr. Khin failure to take action was also "an application of excessive force").

Thus, plaintiff, in his supplemental memorandum mailed to the court on March 7, 2000, argued that Nyhuis was inapposite to the instant case because "[t]he term 'prison conditions' does not, however, apply to allegations of excessive force." Pl.'s Supp. Mem. at 1. Booth, decided on March 7, 2000, plainly precludes plaintiff's position. "We reject this argument and hold that Section 1997e(a) applies to excessive force actions." 2000 WL 251627, at *1. Accordingly, the court will dismiss plaintiff's 1983 claim for his failure to exhaust his administrative remedies. Finally, given the infancy of these proceedings, the court chooses, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367, not to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over plaintiff's remaining state law claims.